

U.S. Serial No.: 10/805,769
Docket No.: 2156-528A

Examiner: R. Harlan
Art Unit: 1713

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REMARKS

Claims 14-41 are currently pending in this application, and claims 14 and 25 have been amended. No new matter is believed to have been added by virtue of these amendments.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 14-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Wandelmaier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,451,896).

The Examiner asserts that Wandelmaier describes a method for preparing an aqueous primer composition that anticipates the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Wandelmaier is directed to the preparation of aqueous coating compositions used for the preparation of waterborne basecoats for the coating of vehicles and vehicle parts in vehicle repair coating. In contrast, Applicants' invention is directed to a method of preparing an aqueous primer composition (claim 14) and a method of adhering a photopolymer resin to an underlying substrate (claim 25) during the manufacturing of flexographic printing elements.

Applicants respectfully submit that Wandelmaier does not describe an aqueous coating composition that is made according to the method described and claimed by Applicants. In particular, claim 14 requires a specific method of preparing a primer composition that includes preparing a surfactant pre-mixture composition, preparing a layered silicate dispersion and then preparing the primer composition by mixing the various ingredients in the order given. In contrast, the composition of Wandelmaier comprises a pigment composition and a pigment-free composition that are then mixed together. While Wandelmaier describes the inclusion of a surface active agent, there is no suggestion or teaching for preparing a surfactant pre-mixture as described and claimed

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by Applicants. For all of these reasons it is believed that the present invention can be distinguished from Wandelmaier.

In order to further distinguish over Wandelmaier, Applicants have amended claim 14 to recite that the copolymer is an acrylic acid copolymer. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion in Wandelmaier that the composition contains an acrylic acid copolymer.

Furthermore, Applicants have amended claim 25 to affirmatively recite that the photopolymer resin is adhered to an underlying substrate during a manufacturing process for flexographic printing elements. There is no teaching or suggestion in Wandelmaier that their vehicle repair coating could be used to adhere photosensitive resins to printing plate substrates in a process of making flexographic printing plates. Furthermore, a person skilled in the art of making flexographic printing elements would not look to a reference that describes coatings used in vehicle repairs to solve problems associated with printing plate manufacturing.

For all of these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-41 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wandelmaier is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the foregoing is a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is requested. Applicants believe that claims 14-41 are now in condition for allowance and an indication of allowability and an early Notice of Allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

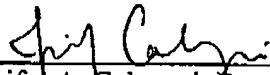
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If the Examiner perceives of any reason why such allowance should not be granted he is requested to contact the undersigned at (203) 575-2648 for a telephonic interview prior to issuance of the next office action.

Respectfully submitted,

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